

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01

OMB-01 CEA-01 SCCT-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 COME-00 SAM-01

SAB-01 /096 W

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R 190750Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3356

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 5164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, SW

SUBJECT: MORE ON THE PALME-ARAFAT MEETING

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 5109; (B) STOCKHOLM 5014

1. ON HIS RETURN TO STOCKHOLM NOVEMBER 16 FROM ALGIERS AND PARIS (WHERE HE MET WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT D'ESTAING AND PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC) SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME WAS GREETED AT AIRPORT BY SOME 40 DEMONSTRATORS (MEMBERS OF SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ISRAEL) CHANTING PRO-ISRAELI SLOGANS. WHEN REPORTERS QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF PLO LEADER ARAFAT AT THE BANQUET GIVEN
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FOR PALME BY ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE NOV. 12 (REF A),

PALME REPLIED WITH SOME IRRITATION THAT "IT IS MACABRE THAT THE DEBATE IN SWEDEN IS CONCERNED WITH THE QUESTION OF WHO WAS ON THE GUEST LIST IN ALGIERS, AT THE TIME WHEN THE QUESTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS WAR OR PEACE." THE PRIME MINISTER REPEATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT HE LEARNED THAT ARAFAT WOULD BE INVITED TO THE DINNER ONLY A FEW MINUTES BEFORE IT BEGAN.

2. ON NOV. 22 THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT SUBMITTED BY MODERATE AND LIBERAL PARTY MP'S ON APPEARANCE OF PLO LEADER ARAFAT AT THE ALGIERS DINNER. WHILE THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF DEBATE IS THE OPPOSITION'S DETERMINATION TO QUESTION PALME WHETHER HE KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT ARAFAT WAS LIKELY TO ATTEND BANQUET (AS CLAIMED INSISTENTLY BY AFTERNOON LIBERAL PAPER EXPRESSEN), AIDE TO PRIME MINISTER (SCHORI) INFORMED POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT DEBATE MAY DEVELOP INTO BROAD DISCUSSION OF SWEDISH MIDDLE EAST POLICY. GOS WOULD WELCOME SUCH A DEBATE, SCHORI ADDED, IN ORDER TO "CLEAR THE AIR" (AS WE BELIEVE THE OPPOSITION WOULD ALSO).

3. SCHORI ALSO MENTIONED THAT AS RESULT OF PRIME MINISTER'S PARTICIPATION IN FRIDAY'S DEBATE, THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER TO COPENHAGEN TO MEET DANISH PRIME MINISTER HARTLING (REF B) HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE. THE VISIT TO BONN, TO MEET WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FORMER CHANCELLOR BRANDT, IS STILL ON, SCHORI SAID.

4. COMMENT: IF THE INTERPELLATION ON FRIDAY DEVELOPS INTO A BROAD DEBATE OF SWEDEN'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY, IT COULD BE USEFUL IN DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT AND IF SO, TO WHAT DEGREE, THE GOS MIDEAST POLICY IN RECENT MONTHS HAS BEGUN TO "TILT" TOWARDS THE ARAB WORLD, AS CHARGED BY OPPOSITION CRITICS OF THE PALME GOVERNMENT (REF A).
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